

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A backlight assembly for providing light in different directions, comprising:

a light source for generating light;

5 a first light guide plate receiving the light from the light source and guiding the received light to output first light in a first direction toward a first display unit; and

a second light guide plate receiving the light from the light source and guiding the received light to output second light in a second direction toward a second display unit, wherein an amount of the first light is different from an amount of the second light.

10

2. The backlight assembly of claim 1, wherein the first light guide plate includes:

a first light incident surface receiving the light from the light source;

a first light reflecting surface reflecting light provided through the first light incident surface; and

15 a first light exiting surface outputting the light reflected by the first light reflecting surface.

3. The backlight assembly of claim 2, wherein the second light guide plate includes:

a second light incident surface receiving the light from the light source;

20 a second light reflecting surface reflecting light provided through the second light incident surface; and

a second light exiting surface outputting the light reflected by the second light reflecting surface.

25 4. The backlight assembly of claim 3, wherein the light source has a light output surface generating the light toward the first and second light incident surfaces, the light output surface having an areal size substantially equal to a sum of areal sizes of the first and second light incident surfaces.

5. The backlight assembly of claim 4, wherein an amount of the first light is larger than an amount of the second light, the areal size of the first light incident surface is larger than the areal size of the second light incident surface.

5 6. The backlight assembly of claim 4, wherein the first light guide has a thickness larger than a thickness of the second light guide plate.

7. The backlight assembly of claim 4, wherein the first light exiting surface has an areal size different from an areal size of the second light exiting surface.

10

8. The backlight assembly of claim 4, wherein the first light reflecting surface has an areal size different from an areal size of the second light reflecting surface.

9. The backlight assembly of claim 4, wherein an amount of the second light is larger
15 than an amount of the first light, the areal size of the second light incident surface is larger than the areal size of the first light incident surface.

10. The backlight assembly of claim 9, wherein the second light guide has a thickness larger than a thickness of the first light guide plate.

20

11. The backlight assembly of claim 4, wherein the first and second light incident surfaces have a substantially identical areal size.

12. The backlight assembly of claim 11, wherein the first and second light guide plates
25 have a substantially identical thickness.

13. The backlight assembly of claim 11, wherein the light source is disposed in different positions adjacent to the first and second light incident surfaces to control amounts of the first and second lights, respectively.

30

14. The backlight assembly of claim 13, wherein the amount of the first light is larger than the amount of the second light, the light source being disposed such that the light output surface covers first and second areas of the first and second light incident surfaces, respectively, in which the first area is larger than the second area.

5

15. The backlight assembly of claim 14, wherein the first area is the entire area of the first light incident surface and the second area is a portion of the second light incident surface.

10 16. The backlight assembly of claim 13, wherein the amount of the second light is larger than the amount of the first light, the light source being disposed such that the light output surface covers first and second areas of the first and second light incident surfaces, respectively, in which the second area is larger than the first area.

15 17. The backlight assembly of claim 16, wherein the second area is the entire area of the second light incident surface and the first area is a portion of the first light incident surface.

20 18. The backlight assembly of claim 3, further including a reflection plate disposed between the first and second light guide plates, the reflection plate reflecting light leaking from the first light reflecting surface toward the first light exiting surface and reflecting light leaking from the second light reflecting surface toward the second light exiting surface.

25 19. The backlight assembly of claim 3, further including:
a first optical member disposed on the first light exiting surface, the first optical member increasing luminance of the first light; and
a second optical member disposed on the second light exiting surface, the second optical member increasing luminance of the second light.

20. The backlight assembly of claim 3, further including:
a first receiving container holding the first light guide plate and the light source;

a second receiving container receiving the first receiving container, the first light guide plate and the light source, the second receiving container having an opening through which the second light guide plate is disposed; and

a third receiving container receiving the second light guide plate, the third receiving container being combined with the second receiving container to cover the opening.

21. The backlight assembly of claim 20, wherein the first receiving container includes an opening through which the light source is disposed.

22. The backlight assembly of claim 21, wherein the second receiving container includes a receiving recess to receive the light source disposed through the opening of the first receiving container.

23. The backlight assembly of claim 22, wherein the receiving recess has a depth substantially equal to a thickness of the light source.

24. A display device for displaying images on different display units, comprising:

a first display unit displaying first images using first light;

a second display unit displaying second images using second light; and

a backlight assembly for providing the first and second lights to the first and second display units, respectively, the backlight assembly including:

a light source for generating light;

a first light guide plate receiving the light from the light source and guiding the received light to output the first light in a first direction toward the first display unit; and

a second light guide plate receiving the light from the light source and guiding the received light to output the second light in a second direction toward the second display unit,

wherein an amount of the first light is different from an amount of the second light.

25. The display device of claim 24, wherein the first and second directions are opposite to each other.

26. The display device of claim 24, wherein an amount of the first light is larger than an amount of the second light, an areal size of a light incident surface of the first light guide plate being larger than an areal size of a light incident surface of the second light guide plate.

27. The display device of claim 24, wherein the light source is disposed in different positions adjacent to light incident surfaces of the first and second light guide plates to control amounts of the first and second lights, the first and second light incident surfaces having a substantially identical areal size.

28. The backlight assembly of claim 27, wherein the amount of the first light is larger than the amount of the second light, the light source being disposed such that the light output surface covers first and second areas of the first and second light incident surfaces, respectively, in which the first area is larger than the second area.

29. The display device of claim 24, further including:
a reflection plate disposed between the first and second light guide plates,
a first optical member disposed on a light exiting surface of the first light guide plate, the first optical member increasing luminance of the first light;
a second optical member disposed on a light exiting surface of the second light guide plate, the second optical member increasing luminance of the second light;
a first receiving container holding the first light guide plate and the light source;
a second receiving container receiving the first receiving container, the first light guide plate and the light source, the second receiving container having an opening through which the second light guide plate is disposed; and
a third receiving container receiving the second light guide plate, the third receiving container being combined with the second receiving container to cover the opening.

30

30. The backlight assembly of claim 29, wherein the second receiving container includes a receiving recess to receive the light source disposed through an opening of the first receiving container.